

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The claims have been amended as follows:

37. (currently amended) A method for reducing the energy used in a short circulation in a papermaking machine wherein a headbox is supplied stock from an inlet header and wherein the inlet header is supplied with stock from at least a first stock chest of stock which has not passed through a hydrocyclone and a second stock chest of stock which has passed through a hydrocyclone, the method comprising the steps of:

cleaning stock from the first stock chest with a hydrocyclone to form an accepts flow

of stock;

mixing the accepts flow of stock with a flow of stock from the second stock chest in a

mixing device to form a mixed stock; and

~~supplying~~ supplying the mixed stock to the inlet header of the headbox.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 20-28 are allowed, because in an apparatus for treating stock passing to a headbox of a paper machine, wherein the apparatus comprises a short circulation, first and second stock chests, and a hydrocyclone plant forming part of the short circulation and connected to a transporting line of the first stock chest, the prior art does not disclose or suggest further providing a mixing device connected to a transporting line of the second stock chest and to an accept outlet line of the hydrocyclone plant so that stocks flowing from those lines are mixed in the mixing device, and connected to a transporting line to the headbox. Claims 29-30 are allowed for the same reasons and further reciting a mixing device between the first stock chest and the hydrocyclone plant.

Claims 31-36 are allowed, because in a short circulation in a paper machine including passing a flow of stock to a hydrocyclone plant, the prior art does not disclose or suggest combining the accepts flow of the hydrocyclone plant with a second stock flow that has not passed through the hydrocyclone plant in a mixing device, and passing the combined stock to the headbox.

Claims 37-39 are allowed, because in a short circulation in a paper machine where a headbox is supplied with a first stock which has not passed through a hydrocyclone and a second stock which has passed through a hydrocyclone, the prior art does not disclose or suggest cleaning the first stock with a hydrocyclone, combining the accepts flow of the hydrocyclone with the second stock in a mixing device, and supplying the mixed stock to the headbox.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 28, 2008 have been considered.

In view of the arguments, the amendment to the claims to include a mixing device overcomes the rejection of claims 20-26 and 31-39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hautala et al (US 6,267,845) set forth previously. Regarding claim 31, no new matter has been added, as the specification provides support for one of the stock flows not flowing through the hydrocyclone plant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is (571) 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eric Hug/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791